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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsierr Sven Stiner, Secretary of Legation, and until recently Swiss Consul in Hongkong, to the post of Chargé d'Affaires in Peking, promoting him at the same time to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

\* \* \*

M. Fernando Pedrini, a member of the Federal Insurance Office in Lucerne, has been elected by the two Chambers, a judge at the Federal Supreme Court in Lausanne.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Zivota Djermanovic, the newly appointed Minister of the Republic of Yugo-Slavia has presented his credentials to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The new Minister was born in 1897 at Valievo, and after having studied law at the University in Paris, established himself as a lawyer in his native town. At the outbreak of the last war, he was elected a member of Parliament, and finally occupied the post as Vice-President of the Yugoslav government.

\* \* \*

The Newly appointed Minister of the republic of Columbia, General Miguel Sanjuan, has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

General Sanjuan was, at one time, Chief-of-Staff of the Columbian Army, and lately Minister of Justice in the Government of Columbia.

### Cantonal

Mr. Alois Abächerli, since 1936 a member of the government of the canton of Obwalden, has tendered his resignation. From 1945-1948 he occupied the post of "Landammann." [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor, Dr. Franz, Alfred Herzog, "Stiftprobst zu Leodegar" since 1938, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Hans Hefti-Haab, "Landammann" of the canton of Glarus, and since 1937, a member of the cantonal government has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Fritz Ernst, has been elected Director of the "Studio Basle" in succession to Dr. Emil Notz.

The new Director was born in Basle in 1907, and graduated from the University of his native town. Since 1931, he has held the post of teacher at the "Knaben-Primar" and later at the "Knaben-Sekundar Schule" in Basle. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A Swiss Air Force pilot, Lieutenant Albert Bär (single) of Zurich, was killed when his Mustang fighter nose-dived into a forest near Meiringen (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

As a result of the recent elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau the strength of the various parties is as follows: Liberals: 30 (24); Peasants: 33 (35); Socialists 29 (30); Cath. Cons.: 20 (19); Christian-Socialists: 8 (9); Evang. Popular Party: 1 (2); Young Liberals: 1 (0); Democrats: 1 (2); "Freiwirtschaftler": 1 (1). Total 124 members.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Héli Badoux, has been appointed Professor of Geology at the University of Lausanne, in succession to the late Professor Gagnebin. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Société Géologique de France" has awarded the "Albert Gaudry" Prize to M. Maurice Lugeon, formerly a Professor at the University of Lausanne.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Mme. Marie de Blonay-Bodmer (Lausanne) has left 10,000.—frs. each to the Professor Decker and Professor Jaeger Foundations. [A.T.S.]

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M. Louis Hugenin, Engineer at the Technical University in Zurich, has been elected Director of the Technical Schools in Le Locle and La Chaux-de-Fonds, in succession to National-Councillor Henri Perret.

[A.T.S.]

:o:

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Albert Näf, for many years rector of the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule" of Brugg, in Brugg, at the age of 78.

Pastor Christian Michel, a preacher and well-known political personality in the canton of Grisons, in Oetwil (Ct. Zurich), at the age of 86. The deceased was for a great number of years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons. From 1920-1929, Pastor Michel was a member of the cantonal government, and afterwards became Editor of the "Neuen Bündner Zeitung."

Dr. Hermann Merz, a medical practitioner of Oberdiesbach (Ct. Berne), following an accident, in Oberdiesbach, aged 52.

Dr. William de Coulon, surgeon-in-chief of the municipal and children's hospital, Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel at the age of 61.

William Thomi, a teacher in Clarens, and well-known fiction writer, in Clarens, aged 55.

Jakob Schaub-Buser, Editor and Publisher of the paper "Volksstimme von Baselland", in Sissach, at the age of 87.

## The 34th SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR BASLE - APRIL 15th to 25th 1950

ONCE again this 34th Industries Fair will provide a comprehensive and clear picture of the assiduous efforts made by Swiss industries to devote their creative genius, their energy and craftsmanship towards making a really worthwhile contribution to the supply of the world's markets with goods of the most varied kind and excellent quality.

Full information from the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, London, W.1, Consulates Liverpool and Manchester.

Details of travel arrangements and currency allowance (business only) from any leading Travel Agency or the Swiss State Travel Bureau, 458/9, Strand, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

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Charles Pelet, Engineer in Lausanne, aged 58.

Colonel Hans Muheim, Manager of the "Berneralpen-Milchgesellschaft" and a former commander of the Infantry-regiment 7, in Düringen, at the age of 55.

Dr. Werner Jordi, a well-known Bienne medical practitioner, in Bienne, aged 59.

Dr. Hans Zoelly, for many year Assistant-Manager of the "Eidgenössischen Landestopographie Büro", in Berne, aged 69. The deceased was a *doctor honoris causa* of the Federal Technical University (ETH) in Zurich.

Dr. Albert Zellweger, Editor of the "Radio Zeitung" in Basle, at the age of 53.

Dr. Joseph Mühle, Director of the "Kunstgewerbeschule" in Lucerne, at the age of 60.

Jean Reich, "Weltmeisterschütze" in Thal (Ct. St. Gall), aged 77. Reich took part in ten International Shooting competitions. In 1910, he obtained the title of "Weltmeister" at Loos-Duinen (Holland), where he obtained top scores in all three positions.

Dr. Balthasar Hofstetter, for thirty years President of the Urban Council of Kriens (Ct. Lucerne) and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne.

Pasteur Gérard Savary, for 17 years a preacher at the church of St. François, Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 55.

Dr. Emil Bächler, from 1902-1947, Conservator and Head of the Natural Historical Museum in St. Gall. The deceased was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich.

Joseph Henggeler, a member of the government of the canton of Zurich, in Zurich at the age of 61. The deceased entered the "Kantonsrat" as representative of the Socialist Party in 1926, over which he presided in 1937. In the year 1938, he was elected a member of the cantonal government.

Herrmann Gwalter, President of the "Radiogewerkschaft" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 63.

Melchior Zenger, a well-known alpine guide and "Hüttenwart" of the S.A.C., in Meiringen, aged 95.

Xaver Müller-Kurmann, manufacturer, and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Richenbach, at the age of 53.

Joseph Schwegler, from 1915-1935, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 76.

Karl Danioth, Hotelier, in Andermatt (Grand Hotel Danioth), at the age of 79.

Mgr. August Pahud, Doyen of the "Dekanats St. Amédée" Montreux, in Montreux, aged 68.

Théophile Aubert, in Vevey, at the age of 102.

Alfred Rosselet, specialist on cancer disease, and Professor at the University of Lausanne, aged 63.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following couple have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60), in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Severin Data in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

According to figures published by the Federal

Statistical Buro, 1.75 million bicycles were registered in 1949, or 39,000 more than in the previous year.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

It is reported that the total of the 1st of August collection for 1949 amounted to 1 million francs. The collection was made for the education of needy apprentices of both sexes. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Here are the balances of the accounts for 1949 of the following cantons:

Aargau .....	Credit Balance:	91,792.23 frs.
Neuchâtel .....	Credit Balance:	1,062,206.11 frs.
Solothurn .....	Credit Balance:	742,190.— frs.
Glarus .....	Credit Balance:	10,087.29 frs.
Geneva .....	Credit Balance:	3,879,905.— frs.
Lucerne .....	Debit Balance:	1,354,590.46 frs.
Zug .....	Credit Balance:	106,330.— frs.
St. Gall .....	Credit Balance:	512,000.— frs.
Appenzell A. Rh.	Credit Balance:	198,538.— frs.

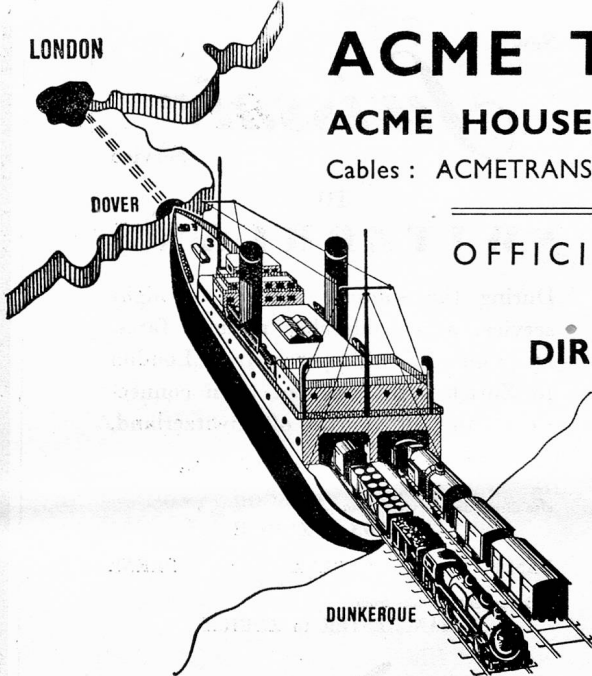
[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for the year 1949: Gewerbekasse Baden: 5 per cent.; Solothurner Handelsbank, Solothurn: 5 per cent.; Schweiz. Hypothekenbank, Solothurn: 5 per cent.; Union Bank of Switzerland, Zurich: 7 per cent. (1948: 7%). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Swiss import duty on beer is to be increased on May 1st to 2½d. a gallon, but there will be no increase in the retail price of Swiss beer.



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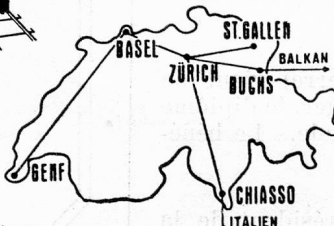
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A Swiss-Israel society for the furtherance of trade between the two countries has been established in Berne, under the auspices of the Swiss-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

The society, to be known as "Sesi," is to operate in the following manner: on the conclusion of a sale in Israel by a Swiss company, the Israel purchaser will immediately pay one-third of the purchase price in a hard currency by banker's draft. The remaining two-thirds will be paid to the Israel offices of "Sesi" in Israel pounds, and the Swiss company will be reimbursed in Swiss francs by the "Sesi" offices in Switzerland.

This system will have the effect of developing commercial exchanges between the two countries, and has been warmly welcomed by Governmental and trade circles in Israel. During 1949, trade between Switzerland and Israel had a value of 27,000,000 Swiss francs.

It is understood that some 150 Swiss firms will join the society.

#### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

*"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).*

La ville de Godesberg a fait parvenir une adresse de reconnaissance au Dr. von Weiss, consul général de Suisse à Cologne, qui prend sa retraite. C'est grâce à l'intervention de notre représentant que la ville de Godesberg a échappé à la destruction lors de la bataille du Rhin.

La "Geological Society of London" a nommé membre d'honneur le professeur J. Cadish, de Berne, en reconnaissance de ses travaux.

La violoniste suisse Steffi Geyer, bien connue aux Pays-Bas, vient d'y remporter un nouveau grand succès. A propos du concert donné à Groningue, par le quatuor Loevenguth, la presse écrit que cet ensemble suisse a enthousiasmé le public mélomane.

Le dessinateur A. Stocker, de Baar (Zoug), a reçu le 2e prix du concours d'affiches pour la 25e biennale de Venise.

Le matériel inventé par le prof. Sauer, de St-Gall, dit "Allraum Rahmenbau-System" a soulevé l'intérêt général lors d'une exposition professionnelle à Essen. Les experts reconnaissent les avantages et les multiples possibilités d'emplois de ces panneaux: aménagements d'intérieur, stands d'exposition, armoires, meubles, vitrines, etc. On a aussi remarqué à cette manifestation les beaux panneaux en matière plastique de Brown Boveri & Cie, qui trouveront un emploi important dans la fabrication des meubles et pour la décoration intérieure.

L'école navale de Warsah (Angleterre) vient de délivrer, pour la première fois à un étranger, le diplôme de premier officier de la marine marchande. Le bénéficiaire est M. D. Bucheler, de Kloten.

M. Marcel Baudet, de Cossonay, président de la Fédération internationale des géomètres, vient de se

voir décerner le titre de membre d'honneur de la Royal Institution of chartered surveyors.

Le nouveau remède suisse contre les rhumatismes "Sympathisan" est le résultat de longues années de recherches menées par des médecins, des pharmaciens et des chimistes. Les premiers essais en série montrent que cette préparation dépasse les espoirs que l'on avait mis en elle.

Une maison lucernoise a mis au point un "garage souterrain." Ce système permet de garer un véhicule là où la construction d'un garage normal serait impossible pour une raison ou pour une autre. Le mécanisme d'élévation est livré par des maisons suisses ayant une vieille expérience en la matière.

L'usine à gaz de Zurich recherche depuis près de 5 ans un procédé pour rendre non toxique le gaz d'éclairage. Aucune autre entreprise de cette envergure en Europe n'est arrivée aux résultats obtenus à Zurich.

Les pépiniéristes suisses peuvent maintenant fournir à leurs clients des produits supérieurs à ceux provenant de l'étranger. Certaines maisons, pour améliorer la qualité de leurs plants, se sont spécialisées dans la culture de quelques espèces seulement.

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\* \* \*

M. Hermann Rusch, d'origine appenzelloise, chef de cuisine au Lexington Hotel, à New-York City, a gagné la médaille d'honneur du gouvernement français, attribuée à l'occasion de l'exposition nationale hôtelière à New-York. C'est la distinction la plus recherchée dans le monde culinaire.

\* \* \*

The International Bank has sold an issue of Swiss franc bonds amounting to 28,500,000f. \$ (6,625,000) to a group of leading banks in Switzerland. The bonds, purchased at par, bear interest at 2½ per cent.

Purpose of the transaction is to enable borrowers of the International Bank to obtain the necessary francs for purchases of equipment in Switzerland.

### THE CAT CONTROVERSY.

For the benefit of those of your readers who are not familiar with the Swiss dialects, I have attempted a free translation of the amusing verses a Lucerne maiden has contributed to your issue of March 10th, 1950, under the title "Zor Chatzedebatte."

J.J.F.S.

Believe the horrid tale or not,  
Someone has launched a rumour that  
The Swiss put in their cooking-pot  
Now and again a pussy-cat.

Jugged hare, I'm told, is very nice,  
A delicacy and a treat,  
Even though feline in disguise;  
But there are other things to eat.

There's oysters, snails and caviare,  
Duck, chicken, for the gourmet's fork,  
Though for my part I would by far  
Prefer a slice of pickled pork.

There's venison, roast kid and hare,  
Trout, lobster, of the frog the leg  
And, if in luck, my bill of fare  
At times includes a new-laid egg.

So cry no more, Puss of my heart.—  
Folks of Lucerne, I raise my hat  
To you for mastering the art  
Of rightly measuring a cat.

Here, every child will tell you: "Why,  
By "Chatzestrück" the hill is meant  
Which people crossed in times gone by,  
On pious pilgrimage intent."

There's not a cat in house or farm,  
Stretching its limbs, that I have met  
Has ever come to any harm,  
Twas just a pampered household pet.

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